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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Peru

DATE DISTR. 31 AUG 50

SUBJECT Disintegration of Union Revolucionaria

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INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

- 25X1X 1. The Peruvian Union Revolucionaria (UR) has virtually ceased to function as a political party since the time of the Arequipa civilian uprising of mid-June which prompted the arrest of leaders of the opposition to Odría. After UR leader Luis Alberto Flores was arrested at that time, other party leaders attempted to carry on clandestinely and tried unsuccessfully to foment a general strike. Their activities were nullified by increased government vigilance which included the closing of the UR headquarters in Lima and in some departments of the interior.
2. Flores, who is ill, has not taken any action to try to reopen the UR headquarters or to reorganize the party, although he has stated that he eventually hopes to do so. Although not outlawed as a political party, the UR actually has no more freedom of action than either the outlawed Apristas or Communists. It is believed that Flores cannot reorganize the party until he receives permission from the government to reopen party headquarters.
3. With Flores inactive, the individuals trying to hold the party together are Dr. Alberto Ferrandiz, Jose Barco Pena, Cesar Caballero, and Francisco Sotil. They favor making peace with the Odría government and have suggested to Flores that he should call on Odría and seek a reconciliation in order to prevent further disintegration of the party.
4. Barco has also suggested to Flores that such a move on his part might cause Odría to permit Pedro Moreno, who was deported to Argentina, to return to Peru. Flores is said to prefer to wait for future developments before making an approach to Odría.
5. The UR is believed to face one of the severest crises in its turbulent history, and even UR supporters and sympathizers are doubtful that the party will ever again regain its former influence and strength. Flores himself is said to realize that the rank and file of the party is merely apathetic toward the Odría government and are in no mood to carry on a subversive clandestine struggle. One reason for this attitude is that the Odría government is just as strongly anti-APRA as is the UR and there is actually no reason for the average UR member to oppose Odría.
6. Flores has been warned by Dr. David Aguilar Cornejo, who split with Flores and joined Odría, that the government will not tolerate subversive activities

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on the part of the UR. Not only are UR headquarters closed down, but the party's press has been suppressed, and at least one UR youth group, known as Abelardo Solis, has been virtually dissolved by the arrest of its leaders. This firm attitude of the government has caused UR members to fear that the party may be placed in the same position as APRA and the Peruvian Communist Party if any clandestine resistance is attempted.

7. Meanwhile, the dissident UR faction known as the Comité de Emergencia, led by Isaac Castro Bulnes, is taking steps to form a new UR party. The Comité de Emergencia, as such, however, has been declared dissolved, and an assembly has been called for 22 August to form the new party. Castro Bulnes, elected a Deputy to congress on Odria's slate, is still secretary-general of the dissidents but he is on leave of absence because of his congressional duties, and the sub-secretary general, Francisco Romero Garaycochea, is acting in his stead.

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